Annex

Protocol for Pre-primary School Resumption following COVID-19

Precautionary measures

- All teaching and non-teaching personnel should wear masks while in the school premises as far as it is feasible.
- All children aged 5 years and above should wear a mask
- Each preschool should arrange for recording of temperature of:
  a) all staff daily; and
  b) all children twice daily
- Hand sanitizers should be provided and kept handy for use as often as needed in strategic areas throughout the school premises.
- Gloves should be made available to staff when necessary
- There should be restricted and controlled access to parents and visitors beyond a certain point inside the school
- Parents should be informed not to send their child/ward to school in case he or she is sick

Prior to school resumption

1. Cleaning of school premises and equipment

Schools should ensure that the following are properly cleaned and/or disinfected:

- school compound
- yard
- drinking water storage tanks
- interior of school building (such as classrooms, common areas, toilets and bathrooms, kitchen etc.)
- frequently touched surfaces including pedagogical materials, toys and commonly shared items.

Schools should also ensure that there are adequate taps on their premises.
All schools should make provision for an isolation area to temporarily accommodate a sick child or member of the school personnel.

2. Physical distancing

Schools should arrange for physical distancing by implementing the following:
- Staggered drop-off and pick-up time.
- Phased resumption: children aged 3 years would attend school two days per week (Monday and Tuesday) whilst children aged 4 and 5 years, to attend on the remaining three days (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
- Avoiding close face-to-face setting as far as practicable
- Clearly marking tables and seating arrangement
- Floor marking at strategic points such as drop-off points, entrance and exit to and from classroom, toilet, bathroom and wash basins.
- Liaising with transport services for implementation of physical distancing norms

**Upon School Resumption**

3. Body Temperature Checking

- Schools should set up a station at the entrance with equipment for temperature check.
- The temperature of staff and children should be checked upon arrival at school premises.
- Any one having fever or associated symptoms should be isolated from other children while being given the proper care and attention
- In case a child falls sick while at school, parents or guardians should be informed as soon as possible.
- Staff with fever or any other associated symptoms should refrain from attending work.

4. Hygiene Facilities

All personnel and children are to undergo shoe and hand sanitization at the school entrance.

Schools should reinforce good hand hygiene by:
● ensuring availability of clean water supply.
● providing adequate hand washing facilities including liquid soap, disposable paper towels and covered rubbish bins.
● ensuring provision of alcohol-based hand sanitizers at strategic points.
● ensuring that children wash their hands regularly with water and soap.
● encouraging children to bring their own hand towel for wiping of hands.

Schools should reinforce daily cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms by

● regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch places (railings, tables, play materials and equipment, door and window handles, teaching and learning aids etc.), using disinfectants as established in the protocol for cleaning (consult the Ministry's website: http://ministry-education.govmu.org)
● ensuring an adequate air flow and ventilation in classes by opening windows.
● daily removal and safe disposal of trash.

Schools should maintain toilets clean and hygienic by

● keeping toilets and surrounding areas clean and dry.
● frequent toilet cleaning with appropriate cleaning agents.
● refilling of soap dispensers
● ensuring the flushing system of toilets are functioning properly
● closing toilet lids when flushing.

5. Preparation of school activities

Schools should

● Encourage children to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth when doing activities.
● Avoid games that involve a common object e.g. ball games
● Organise staggered use of common areas and facilities by different groups / classes.
● Avoid sharing of items such as toys, teaching aids and other instruments and if required, clean and disinfect between uses.
● Cancel morning assemblies, sports events or other extracurricular activities which would create crowd gathering.
6. **Meal Arrangement**

- Serving of school meals should be done in accordance with protocol established by the Health and Safety Act.
- Physical distance should be maintained during meals. Children should all face one direction, otherwise, partitions may be installed on tables if feasible.
- Ensure that children do not share food or drinks.

7. **CoVid-19 Protocol if there is a suspected case**

- Schools should refer to the established Covid19 protocol and flowchart for isolation of a suspected case, informing parents and the referral pathway to health institutions. This protocol can be downloaded from the Ministry's website: [http://ministry-education.govmu.org](http://ministry-education.govmu.org)

8. **General Administrative Measures**

- Temperature screening of children, staff and visitors need to be maintained at all times
- Name, address and contact details, of any visitor acceding the premises should be recorded on a daily basis and used in the event of any contact tracing exercise.
- Virtual meetings should be encouraged.
- The use of air conditioning units should be discouraged, as far as possible. Instead, windows and doors should be kept open for cross ventilation.
- Measures for physical distancing, within the school premises, should be respected on a daily basis throughout the period that children are within these premises.